

HOUSE RESOLUTION 293

By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION designating March 26, 2008, as "Safe Haven Homeless Family Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this body should pause to specially recognize those exemplary facilities, established by visionary individuals, that serve to improve the quality of life for families in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such facility is the Safe Haven Family Shelter in Nashville, which strives to empower homeless families with children to live independently through spiritual, financial, and social guidance; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the National Coalition on Homelessness, 39 percent of the national homeless population is made up of children under the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of the homeless families served at Safe Haven Family Shelter include children under eighteen, which is why the organization works so diligently to get the families they assist back into the mainstream as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, Safe Haven's goal for long-term success entails not only securing a job and housing for the parents in homeless families, but also working with the children to provide them with "tools" to help stop the cycle of homelessness and dysfunctional behavior; and

WHEREAS, Safe Haven Family Shelter's Board of Directors is comprised of leaders from the Nashville community who support and direct the functions of the shelter through a variety of committees; Executive Director Bruce Newport, alongside a team of experts, is devoted to empowering families as they help them return to mainstream living; and

WHEREAS, with a volunteer base of over 2,500 dedicated volunteers from schools, churches, corporations, and other organizations, the Safe Haven program operates on a very

small operating budget, relying predominantly on gifts from corporations, churches, and individuals in the community; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the director and staff of the Safe Haven Family Shelter Center for their dedication in serving those families in need with the utmost integrity, acumen, and alacrity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby designate March 26, 2008, as "Safe Haven Homeless Family Awareness Day" in Tennessee, and as we commend the efforts of Safe Haven Family Shelter in working to empower homeless families with children to live independently, we encourage all Tennesseans to support those exceptional organizations that strive to improve the quality of life for Tennessee's homeless families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the fourth Wednesday of March thereafter should be observed as "Safe Haven Homeless Family Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.